

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal, a mail server, and a mail gateway, wherein ~~the said~~ mail gateway is connected to ~~the said~~ mail terminal via a network and ~~the to said~~ mail server via another network,

~~the wherein said~~ mail server ~~comprising~~ comprises:

an attached file holding unit operable to receive an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses ~~the said~~ mail terminal and hold one or more attached files included in the e-mail; and

a mail distribution unit operable to receive a file attached e-mail transmitted from ~~the said~~ mail gateway and distribute the file attached e-mail to a respective address of one or more receivers' addresses thereof receivers of the e-mail;

~~the wherein said~~ mail gateway ~~comprising~~ comprises:

an identifier generation unit operable to generate an identifier for each attached file held by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of identifiers generated by ~~the said~~ identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to ~~the said~~ mail terminal;

a reception unit operable to receive ~~e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers that the user selects from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from said mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire attached files from ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by ~~the said~~ reception unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired by ~~the said~~ attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail received by ~~the said~~ reception unit; and

a mail transmission unit operable to transmit the file attached e-mail constructed by ~~the said~~ construction unit to ~~the said~~ mail server; and;

~~the wherein said~~ mail terminal ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a list reception unit operable to receive the identifier list from ~~the said~~ mail gateway;

a preparation unit operable to prepare the attached-file specifying e-mail ~~that includes including the~~ one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the prepared attached-file specifying e-mail to ~~the said~~ mail gateway.

2. (Currently Amended) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 1, wherein: ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit is operable to, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, ~~generates-generate~~ a list of the attached files and ~~passes-pass~~ the list of the attached files to ~~the said~~ identifier generation unit; and

~~the said~~ identifier generation unit ~~generates-is operable to generate~~ an identifier for each of the attached files in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit.

3. (Currently Amended) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the wherein said mail terminal further comprises:

a file format registration unit operable to register one or more ~~files-file~~ formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in ~~the said~~ mail gateway;

~~the wherein said~~ mail gateway further comprises:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by ~~the said~~ file format registration unit; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in the ~~file-said~~ format storage unit; and,

wherein ~~the said~~ construction unit ~~constructs-is operable to construct the file attached~~ e-mail by attaching the attached files converted by ~~the said~~ file format conversion unit from and as a substitute for the attached files acquired by ~~the said~~ attached file acquisition unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 1, ~~wherein~~
~~the wherein said~~ mail terminal further comprises:

a sharing notification unit operable to notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway that one or more attached files included in an e-mail addressed to the user of ~~the said~~ mail terminal are to be shared with other users;

~~the wherein said~~ mail gateway further comprises:

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving the notification that the attached files are to be shared with the other users from ~~the said~~ mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit with the other users; and

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by ~~the said~~ attached file sharing unit, ~~wherein~~ the shared identifier is being available for sharers of the attached files;

wherein ~~the said~~ sharing notification unit ~~further~~ includes:

a shared file notification unit operable to notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway of one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for the one or more attached files that are permitted to be shared; and

a sharer notification unit operable to notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway of one or more sharers of each of the attached files that are to be shared with the other users;

wherein ~~the said~~ attached file sharing unit ~~shares~~ is operable to share attached files that correspond to the identifiers notified from ~~the said~~ shared file notification unit among attached files held by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit with the sharers notified from ~~the said~~ sharer notification unit;

~~the wherein said~~ list transmission unit is further transmits operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files;

~~the wherein said~~ attached file acquisition unit is further acquires operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers; and

~~the wherein said~~ list reception unit is further receives operable to receive a list of shared identifiers that have a one to one correspondence to each of the attached files that are shared by the user of ~~the said~~ mail terminal as one member of the sharers.

5. (Currently amended) An e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal and a mail gateway, ~~the said~~ mail gateway being connected to ~~the said~~ mail terminal via a network,

~~the wherein said~~ mail gateway ~~comprising~~comprises:

an attached file holding unit operable to receive an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses ~~the said~~ mail terminal and hold one or more attached files included in the e-mail; ~~and~~

an identifier generation unit operable to generate an identifier for each attached file held by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of identifiers generated by ~~the said~~ identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to ~~the said~~ mail terminal;

~~a reception unit operable to receive e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~
an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from said mail terminal, the attached-file specifying email including one or more identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire attached files from ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by ~~the said~~ reception unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired by ~~the said~~ attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail received by ~~the said~~ reception unit; and

a mail distribution unit operable to distribute the file attached e-mail constructed by ~~the said~~ construction unit to a respective address of one or more receivers ~~receivers' addresses~~ of the e-mail; ~~and;~~

~~the wherein said~~ mail terminal comprising:

a list reception unit operable to receive the identifier list from ~~the said~~ mail gateway;

a preparation unit operable to prepare the attached-file specifying e-mail ~~that includes including the~~ one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list

as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail;
and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared by ~~the said~~ preparation unit to ~~the said~~ mail gateway.

6. (Currently Amended) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 5, wherein:
~~wherein the said~~ attached file holding unit is operable to, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, ~~generates~~ generate a list of the attached files and ~~passes~~ pass the list of the attached files to the said identifier generation unit; and

~~the said~~ identifier generation unit ~~generates~~ is operable to generate an identifier for each of the attached files in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 5,
wherein ~~the said~~ mail terminal further comprises:

a file format registration unit operable to register one or more ~~files~~ file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in ~~the said~~ mail gateway;

~~the wherein said~~ mail gateway further comprises:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by ~~the said~~ file format registration unit; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in ~~the said~~ file format storage unit; and;

wherein ~~the said~~ construction unit ~~constructs~~ is operable to construct the file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files converted by ~~the said~~ file format conversion unit from and as a substitute for the attached files acquired by ~~the said~~ attached file acquisition unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The e-mail transmission/reception system of Claim 5,
wherein ~~the said~~ mail terminal further comprises:

a sharing notification unit operable to notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway that one or

more attached files included in the e-mail addressed to the user of ~~the~~ said mail terminal are to be shared with other users;

~~the~~ wherein said mail gateway further comprises:

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving the notification that the attached files are to be shared with the other users from ~~the~~ said mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by ~~the~~ said attached file holding unit with the other users; and

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by ~~the~~ said attached file sharing unit, ~~wherein~~ the shared identifier is being available for sharers of the attached files;

wherein ~~the~~ said sharing notification unit ~~further~~ includes:

a shared file notification unit operable to notify ~~the~~ said mail gateway of one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for the one or more attached files that are permitted to be shared; and

a sharer notification unit operable to notify ~~the~~ said mail gateway of one or more sharers of each of the attached files that are to be shared with the other users;

wherein ~~the~~ said attached file sharing unit ~~shares~~ is operable to share attached files that correspond to the identifiers notified from ~~the~~ said shared file notification unit among attached files held by ~~the~~ said attached file holding unit with the sharers notified from ~~the~~ said sharer notification unit;

~~the~~ wherein said list transmission unit ~~is further transmits~~ operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files;

~~the~~ wherein said attached file acquisition unit ~~is further acquires~~ operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers; and

~~the~~ wherein said list reception unit ~~is further receives~~ operable to receive a list of shared identifiers that have a one to one correspondence to each of the attached files that are shared by the user of ~~the~~ said mail terminal as one member of the sharers.

9. (Currently amended) A mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network and a mail server via another network, the mail server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the received e-mail, ~~the~~ said mail gateway comprising:

an identifier generation unit operable to generate an identifier for each attached file held by the mail server;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of identifiers generated by ~~the said~~ identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to the mail terminal;

~~a reception unit operable to receive e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying email including one or more identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire attached files from the mail server, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by ~~the said~~ reception unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired by ~~the said~~ attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail received by ~~the said~~ reception unit; and

a mail transmission unit operable to transmit the file attached e-mail constructed by the said construction unit to the mail server.

10. (Currently Amended) The mail gateway of Claim 9, wherein:

the mail server functions, whenever receiving an e-mail that includes attached files, so as to generate a list of the attached files and ~~passes-pass~~ the list of the attached files to ~~the said~~ mail gateway; and;

~~wherein the said~~ identifier generation unit ~~generates-is operable to generate~~ an identifier for each of the attached files in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by the mail server.

11. (Currently Amended) The mail gateway of Claim 9, further comprising:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by the mail terminal; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that

are stored in ~~the said~~ file format storage unit;

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to register the one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in ~~the said~~ mail gateway; and;

wherein ~~the said~~ construction unit ~~constructs~~ is operable to construct the file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files converted by the said file format conversion unit from and as substitutes for the attached files acquired by the said attached file acquisition unit.

12. (Currently Amended) The mail gateway of Claim 9, further comprising:

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving a notification that attached files are to be shared with other users from the mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by the mail server with the other users;

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by ~~the said~~ attached file sharing unit, ~~wherein the shared identifier is being~~ available for sharers of the attached files;

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway that one or more attached files are to be shared with other users by means of identifiers corresponding to the one or more attached files, the attached files being included in e-mail addressed to the user of the mail terminal and being permitted to be shared with other users, and notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway of the one or more sharers who shares are to share the one or more attached files;

wherein ~~the said~~ attached file sharing unit ~~shares~~ is operable to share the one or more attached files that correspond to the one or more identifiers notified from the mail terminal out of attached files held by the mail server among the notified sharers;

~~the wherein said~~ list transmission unit is further transmits operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files; and

~~the wherein said~~ attached file acquisition unit is further acquires operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers.

13. (Currently amended) A mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, ~~the said~~ mail gateway comprising:

an attached file holding unit operable to receive an e-mail addressed to a user who

possesses the mail terminal and hold one or more attached files included in the e-mail; ~~and~~
an identifier generation unit operable to generate an identifier for each attached file held
by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit;

a list transmission unit operable to generate a list of identifiers generated by ~~the said~~
identifier generation unit and transmit the identifier list to the mail terminal;

a reception unit operable to receive ~~e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail
including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one
or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail
transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more
identifiers generated by said identifier generation unit;

an attached file acquisition unit operable to acquire attached files from ~~the said~~ attached
file holding unit, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file
specifying e-mail received by ~~the said~~ reception unit;

a construction unit operable to construct a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached
files acquired by ~~the said~~ attached file acquisition unit to the attached-file specifying e-mail
received by ~~the said~~ reception unit; and

a mail distribution unit operable to distribute the file attached e-mail constructed by ~~the
said~~ construction unit to a respective address of one or more receivers ~~receivers' addresses of the~~
e-mail.

14. (Currently Amended) The mail gateway of Claim 13, wherein:

~~the said~~ attached file holding unit is operable to, whenever receiving an e-mail that
includes attached files, ~~generates-generate~~ a list of the attached files and ~~passes-pass~~ the list of
the attached files to ~~the said~~ identifier generation unit; and

~~the said~~ identifier generation unit ~~generates-is operable to generate~~ an identifier for each
of the attached files in accordance with the list of the attached files passed by ~~the said~~ attached
file holding unit.

15. (Currently Amended) The mail gateway of Claim 13, further comprising:

a file format storage unit operable to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are
registered by the mail terminal; and

a file format conversion unit operable to convert one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the receivers' addresses and the file formats that are stored in ~~the said~~ file format storage unit,

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to register the one or more file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in ~~the said~~ mail gateway, and

~~the said~~ construction unit ~~constructs~~ is operable to construct the file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files converted by ~~the said~~ file format conversion unit from and as substitutes for the attached files acquired by ~~the said~~ attached file acquisition unit.

16. (Currently Amended) The mail gateway of Claim 13, further comprising:

an attached file sharing unit operable to, when receiving a notification that attached files are to be shared with other users from the mail terminal, share each of the attached files held by ~~the said~~ attached file holding unit with the other users; and

a shared identifier generation unit operable to generate a shared identifier for each of the attached files shared by ~~the said~~ attached file sharing unit, wherein the shared identifier is available for sharers of the attached files;

wherein the mail terminal functions so as to notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway that one or more attached files are to be shared with other users by means of identifiers corresponding to the one or more attached files, the attached files being included in e-mail addressed to the user of the mail terminal and being permitted to be shared with the other users, and notify ~~the said~~ mail gateway of one or more sharers who ~~shares~~ share the one or more attached files;

wherein ~~the said~~ attached file sharing unit ~~shares~~ is operable to share the one or more attached files that correspond to the one or more identifiers notified from the mail terminal out of attached files held by the mail server among the notified sharers;

~~the wherein said~~ list transmission unit is further transmits operable to transmit a list of the shared identifiers to the sharers of the attached files; and

~~the wherein said~~ attached file acquisition unit is further acquires operable to acquire attached files that correspond to the shared identifiers.

17. (Currently amended) A mail terminal that is connected to a mail gateway via a network,

the mail gateway generating an identifier for each ~~of~~ attached ~~files~~ file included in an e-mail addressed to a user of ~~the~~ said mail terminal and managing the generated identifier, ~~the~~ said mail terminal comprising:

a list reception unit operable to receive a list of identifiers from the mail gateway;

a preparation unit operable to prepare an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared by ~~the~~ said preparation unit to the mail gateway.

18. (Currently Amended) The mail terminal of Claim 17, further comprising:

a file format registration unit operable to register one or more ~~files~~ file formats of attached files for each receiver's address that the receiver should adopt in the mail gateway;

wherein the mail gateway ~~stores~~ functions so as to store receivers' addresses and file formats that are registered by ~~the~~ said mail terminal, and ~~converts~~ convert file formats of attached files for each receiver's address in accordance with the stored ~~the~~ receivers' addresses and ~~the~~ file formats.

19. (Currently Amended) The mail terminal of Claim 17, further comprising:

a sharing notification unit operable to notify the mail gateway that one or more attached files included in an e-mail addressed to the user of ~~the~~ said mail terminal are to be shared with other users;

wherein ~~the~~ said sharing notification unit ~~further~~ includes:

a shared file notification unit operable to notify the mail gateway of one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for the one or more attached files that are permitted to be shared; and

a sharer notification unit operable to notify the mail gateway of one or more sharers of each of the attached files that are permitted to be shared with the other users;

wherein the mail gateway functions so as to share attached files corresponding to the identifiers notified from ~~the~~ said shared file notification unit among the sharers notified from ~~the~~ said sharer notification unit and generate a shared identifier for each of the shared attached files,

~~wherein~~ the shared identifier is being available for the sharers.

20. (Currently amended) A method for controlling an e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal, a mail server, and a mail gateway, the mail gateway being connected to the mail terminal via a network and to the mail server via another network, ~~the said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~an attached file holding step for receiving an~~ e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the e-mail in the mail server;

~~an identifier generation step for, by the mail gateway, generating, in the mail gateway, an~~ identifier for each attached file held in ~~the attached file holding step~~ said holding of the one or more attached files;

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier~~ generation stepsaid generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list from the mail gateway to the mail terminal;

~~a list reception step for receiving, in the mail terminal, the identifier list from the mail~~ gateway ~~by the mail terminal;~~

~~a preparation step for, by the mail terminal, preparing, in the mail terminal, an attached-~~ file specifying e-mail that includes one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail;

~~a transmission step for transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the~~ preparation step said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail from the mail terminal to the mail gateway;

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal by the mail~~ gateway, the e-mail including ~~one or more identifiers that the user selects from the identifier list~~ as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail the attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted in said transmitting of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~an attached file acquisition step for acquiring, in the mail gateway, attached files from the~~ mail server ~~by the mail gateway, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in~~ the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception stepsaid receiving of the attached- file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step for, by the mail gateway, constructing, in the mail gateway, a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired in the attached file acquisition step said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception step said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;~~

~~a mail transmission step for transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in the construction step said constructing of the file attached e-mail from the mail gateway to the mail server; and~~

~~a mail distribution step for receiving, in the mail server, the file attached e-mail transmitted from the mail gateway terminal by the mail server in said transmitting of the file attached e-mail and distributing the file attached e-mail from the mail server to receivers' addresses a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.~~

21-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) A method for controlling an e-mail transmission/reception system including a mail terminal and a mail gateway, the mail gateway being connected to the mail terminal via a network, ~~the said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~an attached file holding step for receiving an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the e-mail in the mail gateway;~~

~~an identifier generation step for, by the mail gateway, generating, in the mail gateway, an identifier for each attached file held in the attached file holding step said holding of the one or more attached files;~~

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier generation step said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list from the mail gateway to the mail terminal;~~

~~a list reception step for, by the mail terminal, receiving, in the mail terminal, the identifier list generated in said generating of the identifier list from the mail gateway;~~

~~a preparation step for preparing an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail;~~

~~a transmission step for transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the preparation steps~~ said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail from the mail terminal to the mail gateway;

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ the attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal to the mail gateway in said transmitting of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~an attached-file acquisition step for, by the mail gateway, acquiring, in the mail gateway, attached files from the attached-file holding step~~ held in said holding of the one or more attached files, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception steps said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired in the attached-file acquisition step~~ said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception steps said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

~~a mail distribution step for distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in the construction step~~ said constructing of the file attached e-mail to receivers' addresses a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

25-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network and to a mail server via another network, the mail server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the received e-mail, the said method comprising the steps of:

~~an identifier generation step for generating an identifier for each attached file held by the mail server;~~

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier generation step~~ said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated in said generating of the identifier;

~~an attached-file acquisition step for acquiring attached files from the mail server, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the~~attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception step~~said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;~~

~~a construction step for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired in the attached-file acquisition step~~said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception step~~said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and~~

~~a mail transmission step for transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in the~~construction step~~said constructing of the file attached e-mail to the mail server.~~

29-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a mail gateway that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, ~~the said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~an attached-file holding step for receiving an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the e-mail;~~

~~an identifier generation step for generating an identifier for each attached file held in the attached-file holding step~~said holding of the one or more attached files;

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier generation step~~said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated in said generating of the identifier;

~~an attached-file acquisition step for acquiring attached files from the attached-file holding~~
~~step~~held in said holding of the one or more attached files, the attached files corresponding to the
identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in ~~the reception step~~said
receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files~~
~~acquired in the attached-file acquisition step~~said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-
file specifying e-mail received in said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail~~the~~
~~reception step~~; and

~~a mail distribution step for distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in the~~
~~construction step~~said constructing of the file attached e-mail to ~~receivers' addresses~~a respective
address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

33-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a mail terminal that is connected to a mail
gateway via a network, the mail gateway generating an identifier for each ~~of attached files~~file
included in an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and managing the generated
identifier, ~~the said method comprising the steps of~~:

~~a list reception step for receiving a list of identifiers from the mail gateway~~;

~~a preparation step for preparing an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes one or~~
more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more
attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

~~a transmission step for transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the~~
~~preparation step~~said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail to the mail gateway.

37-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently amended) A recording medium which is readable ~~for~~by a computer
connected to a mail terminal via a network and to a mail server via another network, the mail
server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding one or more
attached files included in the received e-mail, a computer program embodied on ~~the~~said

recording medium ~~has causing~~ the computer conduct ~~the steps~~ operations of:

~~an identifier generation step for generating an identifier for each attached file held by the mail server;~~

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier generation steps~~ said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated in said generating of the identifier;

~~an attached-file acquisition step for acquiring attached files from the mail server, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception steps~~ said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired in the attached-file acquisition steps~~ said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception steps said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

~~a mail transmission step for transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in the construction step~~ said constructing of the file attached e-mail to the mail server.

40-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) A recording medium which is readable ~~for by~~ a computer that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, a computer program embodied on ~~the said~~ recording medium ~~has causing~~ the computer conduct ~~the steps~~ operations of:

~~an attached-file holding step for receiving an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the e-mail;~~

~~an identifier generation step for generating an identifier for each attached file held in the attached-file holding steps~~ said holding of the one or more attached files;

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier~~

~~generation step~~ said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated in said generating of the identifier;

~~an attached-file acquisition step for acquiring attached files from the attached file holding step~~ held in said holding of the one or more attached files, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception step said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired in the attached-file acquisition step~~ said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception step said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

~~a mail distribution step for distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in the construction step~~ said constructing of the file attached e-mail to receivers' addresses a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.

44-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A recording medium which is readable ~~for~~ by a computer that is connected to a mail gateway via a network, the mail gateway generating an identifier for each of attached ~~files~~ file included in an e-mail addressed to a user of a mail terminal and managing the generated identifier, a computer program embodied on ~~the~~ said recording medium ~~has~~ causing the computer conduct ~~the steps~~ operations of:

~~a list reception step for receiving a list of identifiers from the mail gateway;~~

~~a preparation step for preparing~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

~~a transmission step for transmitting the~~ attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the

~~preparation steps~~ said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail to the mail gateway.

48-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently amended) A program embodied on a computer-readable medium of a computer connected to a mail terminal via a network and to a mail server via another network, the mail server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the received e-mail, ~~the said program has causing~~ the computer conduct ~~the steps~~ operations of:

~~an identifier generation step~~ for generating an identifier for each attached file held by the mail server;

~~a list transmission step~~ for generating a list of identifiers generated in ~~the identifier generation steps~~ said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

~~a reception step~~ for receiving ~~e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated in said generating of the identifier;

~~an attached file acquisition step~~ for acquiring attached files from the mail server, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in ~~the reception steps~~ said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step~~ for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired in ~~the attached file acquisition steps~~ said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in ~~the reception steps~~ said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and

~~a mail transmission step~~ for transmitting the file attached e-mail constructed in ~~the construction step~~ said constructing of the file attached e-mail to the mail server.

51-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently amended) A program embodied on a computer-readable medium of a computer that is connected to a mail terminal via a network, ~~the said program has causing~~ the computer conduct ~~the steps operations~~ of:

~~an attached file holding step for receiving an~~ e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the e-mail;

~~an identifier generation step for generating an identifier for each attached file held in the attached file holding stepsaid holding of the one or more attached files;~~

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier generation step said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;~~

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated in said generating of the identifier;

~~an attached file acquisition step for acquiring attached files from the attached file holding step~~held in said holding of the one or more attached files, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception stepsaid receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files acquired in the attached file acquisition step said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception stepsaid receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail; and~~

~~a mail distribution step for distributing the file attached e-mail constructed in the construction stepsaid constructing of the file attached e-mail to receivers' addresses a respective address of one or more receivers of the e-mail.~~

55-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently amended) A program embodied on a computer-readable medium of a computer that is connected to a mail gateway via a network, the mail gateway generating an

identifier for each of attached files included in e-mail addressed to a user of a mail terminal and managing the generated identifier, ~~the said program has causing~~ the computer conduct ~~the steps operations~~ of:

~~a list reception step for receiving a list of identifiers from the mail gateway;~~

~~a preparation step for preparing an attached-file specifying e-mail~~ that includes one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail; and

~~a transmission step for transmitting the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the preparation steps~~ said preparing of the attached-file specifying e-mail to the mail gateway.

59-60. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently amended) A program embodied on a computer-readable medium of a computer connected to a mail terminal via a network and to a mail server via another network, the mail server receiving an e-mail addressed to a user of the mail terminal and holding one or more attached files included in the received e-mail, ~~the said program has having~~ the computer conduct ~~the steps operations~~ of:

~~an identifier generation step for generating an identifier for each attached file held by the mail server;~~

~~a list transmission step for generating a list of identifiers generated in the identifier generation steps~~ said generating of the identifier and transmitting the identifier list to the mail terminal;

~~a reception step for receiving e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the e-mail including one or more identifiers selected by the user from the identifier list as substitutes for one or more attached files that the user wants to attach to the e-mail~~ an attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal, the attached-file specifying e-mail including one or more identifiers generated in said generating of the identifier;

~~an attached file acquisition step for acquiring attached files from the mail server, the attached files corresponding to the identifiers included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received in the reception steps~~ said receiving of the attached-file specifying e-mail;

~~a construction step for constructing a file attached e-mail by attaching the attached files~~

acquired in ~~the attached file acquisition step~~ said acquiring of the attached files to the attached-
file specifying e-mail received in the reception step said receiving of the attached-file specifying
e-mail; and

~~a mail transmission step for transmitting the file attached~~ e-mail constructed in the
~~construction step~~ said constructing of the file attached e-mail to the mail server.